thorough and fair trial there is no fruit then give it up. But the EVANGELIST will sustain the doctrine of the Bible, and preach humility to it its readers, but all things cannot receive attention at once; and don't forget that we—*as it were*—are in a council meeting all the time.

A brother from Meyersdale, Pa., sends us an election ticket with four names on it which are familiar: Wm. B. Cook, E. L. Beachley, J. M. Olinger, and J. C. Hostetter. The ticket does not indicate to what party it belongs, but these names make it sound as though it was Prohibition. We are not dealing in politics, but we believe our constituancy will allow us to express our private opinion that it is an honor to a Christian man to appear on such a ticket.

The Evangelical Visitor, the organ of the River Brethren, is one of the cleanest religious papers we ever seen. There is not a line of advertisement of any character beyond the paper and space enough is not used to tell who publishes it or by whom it is edited. It is certainly an elegant little monthly; and we notice that there is now some thought of making it a semi-monthly.

The next conference of the River Brethren will be held near the B & O., railroad west of Milford, Indiana.

In the question regarding Judas, his free agency was not taken away when he betrayed Christ, and he was therefore responsible for his conduct, as any man is responsible for his conduct, either toward God, the church, or the government under which he lives. It does not follow that Christ would not have been crucified if Judas had not betrayed him. The vehemence with which they sought his condemnation shows they were determined and would have learned his place of abode and arrested him, even if Judas had been loyal to his Master. The favor with which many received the name, however, induced the Pharisees to take him by night, and with Judas as an ally, it was easier to accomplish.

The Star of Bethlehem which appeared to the wise men of the East, and led them to Herod, and his instructions to have all the children killed in Bethlehem, affords no solution to the time of Christ's birth. All the male children of two years and under, was intended to cover the full possible age of Christ, and he therefore may have been but one year old, or thereabouts; also, the Star might have appeared some time before Christ's birth, to lead the wise men on their journey. It is, however probable that Christ was about one year and a half old when the journey into Egypt took place.

Miami Valley Items.

We continued our meetings after the dedication at Miamisburg during the week. The Brethren church is very little known here, and the people are showing a great deal of interest in a gospel alone religion, shorn of all superstition and usages and customs.

As the meeting advanced the interest increased. More than once the capacity of our church was tried.

On Friday evening we extended an invitation, and three persons came forward. And on Saturday evening one more united with us. Our membership now numbers just one dozen.

On Saturday evening we adjourned the meeting until the first of March, and very soon after we expect Bro. J. H. Worst, and then we will throw of our coats, roll up our sleeves and go to work in earnest.

The grand gospel alone doctrines of the Brethren church when presented void of the usages and customs of a defunct age, are bound to win, and whenever it has been my lot to go into a new neighborhood, they have been accepted and endorsed. In proof of this witness the new organizations that have taken place in this Valley.

On last Sunday we went to Little York. The morning services were well attended. Several of the members from Pleasant Hill were there. In the afternoon it began to rain, yet the evening services were well attended.

On next Sunday we expect to be at the West Alexandria dedication.

I forgot to mention that the Miamisburg congregation are not only free of debt, but they have raised an extra $100 and placed a nice chapel organ in the church. The community, although not members of the church, are showing a very commendable spirit in giving substantial aid in making it a success.

For the remainder of our time this winter and spring, we expect to be fully occupied in holding protracted meetings.

EDWARD MASON.

College of St. James, Md.

We closed our meetings at St. James the 18th. We continued several weeks. Result, eight souls brought to Christ who were buried with Christ in baptism. Two came out under the preaching of Bro. Jerrold, of Philadelphia. He was obliged to go back to Philadelphia. Then I took the sword and gave them a dose of doctrine, and by the time I got through with the doctrine, Bro. Shaver, of Virginia came, and he wielded the sword for about a week, and 6 more came out and confessed Christ.

We did not do a great work but we feel much encouraged because we have a hard field to work in. Religion is at a pretty law ebb here. The people would rather worship Baal than God. There are a great many out of Christ here, but it takes grape shot and cannon balls to move them.

The Baptists had a four weeks' meeting in Hagerstown, and did not have but three or four accessions. The Disciples had a meeting with but one accession. The Con. had a two weeks' meeting in Hagerstown by one of their champion men, Bro. Earley, of Va., and had but one addition. They had another meeting near here for two weeks by another one of their good preachers, cousin Samuel Sanger, of Va. Had two or three additions, so you see none of us can do much But we feel greatly encouraged because we are the youngest here. But one year ago we had but four members, now we have about thirty. The truth will prevail. Brethren stick to the truth, and don't compromise with satan. We have the best platform in the world, the gospel alone. If we will stick to it and don't abuse our privilege we will prosper. May God help us to do so. Amen.

ISAAC D. BOWMAN.

Sweet Home, Ind.

We closed our protracted meeting here on Feb. 13th. The meeting was very successful, although Bro. Miller was very hoarse with cold from the first to the last. Bro. Isaac N. Miller, of Buchanan, Mich., conducted these meetings, and he wielded the sword of the spirit with the edge right toward us, in such a manner that nine came out on the side of the Lord. Seven of these were baptized and two are to baptized in the near future.

On last Monday morning we met at Fairview Chapel to finish our contract with Bro. Miller for the year's preaching, commencing the first of last Oct. You may wonder at such business as this, but there has been a dark cloud hanging over our church for the last year or more which was threatening us with destruction. But thanks be to God, the horizon is getting clear under the general ship of Bro. Miller. I think that we shall be able to march all abreast once more. If the Lord be for us who can be against us? Let us all praise the Lord for his goodness towards us.

F. H. FRAME.

Aleppo, Pa.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—Again I will try to give you a few items of news. We are still trying to labor in our Master's cause. Our meetings have been well attended during the winter, the young folks taking quite an interest in singing. Good singing is one of the essential parts of a good meeting, and in many places it is neglected to a great extent. We have more commands for singing than we have for praying. Let us then prepare ourselves that we may sing with the Spirit and understanding also.

We have had another glorious revival meeting.

Bro. Hildebrand, of Jones Mills, came among us Jan. 27th, and remained until Feb. 16th, preaching twenty-three sermons for us. The immediate result of his labors are, 12 were added to the church; 9 were baptized; 2 applicants for baptism, one by relation and many others almost persuaded. Bro. Hildebrand is quite an able man, and churches needing a minister will do well if they can get him. Bro. Wise's health has been poor this winter, but we are glad to say he is better now.

Brethren pray for us that we may be faithful and that many souls may yet come to Christ.

J. M. MURRAY.

No Formulated Creed.

Accepting the Old and New Testaments as the word of God, with unbiased liberty and of no private interpretation, the members of the Brethren church profess with sincerity and profess only to be of one mind and of one faith with those who immediately followed the Master, and who were first called Christians at Antioch; for us the church of the Brethren holds the ark of the covenant, to us it is the gate to heaven.

A philosophic observer once said that men by the thousand will die in defence of a creed whose doctrines they do not comprehend and whose tents they habitually violate, it is equally true that men by the thousand will cling to church organizations with instinctive and undying fidelity when their belief in maturer years is radically different from that which inspired them in younger days. But I will drop this subject.

There is something on my mind at the present time worries me very much, and that is the payment of our College.

Now if every brother and sister throughout the entire brotherhood would donate one dollar each on the first day of April 1888, promptly at 10 o'clock of said day, the College debt would soon be paid. But some young members may say I must work either by the day or by the week and I can't spare the money. To such an answer as that, I would say, when you want a pair of shoes or any piece of wearing apparel you can always get it in a few days. Most young people now get from two to three dollars per week; then why not donate a half a week's work for the benefit of the College, you will never feel the poorer for doing so. If we don't do something immediately I will come to the conclusion that a large percentage of the brethren are not in favor of a College, though it cost but a dollar.

N. A. FRAME.

Elkhart, Ind.

Back to Nebraska.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—According to promise, I will write a few lines for your columns, to the Waterloo church in Iowa. Brethren many thanks for your kindness shown me while with you. I will not call names, but will say I was never better treated by any people or brethren in all my life. It appeard to me that you all expressed more of the true and genuine Christian spirit than almost any other church I ever visited. I have not language to express my thanks, but hope God will abundantly bless you all. I hope ere this, you have secured you a good ministers, for I am sure you are worthy of one. I know you are liberal in your offer, and if there is any that is not employed I feel that they cannot do better than to serve you; and if they want more than you offer I fear they are after the fleece and not the flock.

I arrived home on the 31st of Jan., and found all well, for which we give thanks. Brethren if circumstances were so I could I would like to labor for you a year; but as it is I connot, but trusting in God we will leave all to his care. Now may peace, love and joy in the Holy Ghost be yours forever.

F. A. HENDRICKS.

West Independence Echoes.

According to previous arrangements, we began work with the Brethren in the Evangelical church in West Independence, Ohio, on the 11th inst. The roads are very muddy, but the attendance is good and interest encouraging. Prodigals are coming home at every invitation and there is "joy in Israel."

The brethren held a special meeting yesterday, and by a unanimous expression of the church, Bro. Martin Shively was ordained to the full ministry and accepted as Elder of the church at West Independence. Brother Shively stands well here, and has evidently been doing a good work preparatory to the present revival.

J. H. SWIHART.

Feb. 22, 1888.

READERS OF THE EVANGELIST:—I have just finished reading No. 8, of the EVANGELIST, and I can not keep from speaking about it. Why, it was full to overflowing with good news. Correspondence from all parts of the Brotherhood is what makes the paper good and interesting. So here is a bit of news:

On Saturday I went to Glenford to fill my regular appointments at the Bethel church. On Sunday morning was greeted by a very large congregation. Again in the evening, notwithstanding the rain and mud, a fair congregation assembled. Say, brother Mason, I really don't think the people are so very much afraid of rain after all.

With best wishes for success of all the dear brethren and sisters, especially the Sister's Society of Christian Endeavor, I will close remaining yours in Christian love and union.

J. A. MILLER.

Ashland, Ohio.

OUR CHURCH.

Bro. S. H. Bashor's address is now Pasadena, Cal.

Brethren P. J. Brown and W. Kieter returned from the Bear Creek church the first of last week, and stopped in Ashland a short time.

Bro. Isaac Kilhefner returned last Thursday feeling intensely enthusiastic over his evangelistic tour. Well he had excellent success and he has reason to feel glad.

Any minister desiring to take charge of a church or that can be engaged to preach for six months or one year is requested to send his name and address to the EVANGELIST. Everything confidential.

Bro. Josiah Keim spent several days in Ashland last week, on College business. Bro. Keim is one of the true soldiers of the cross. When trouble and danger is at hand he does not forsake his post. The Lord has a crown for him to wear.

On Sunday, Feb. 19th, when the invitation was given, four young men were willing to confess Christ, and since then it was learned that as many more intended to come last Lord's Day. We hope they did, and may the Spirit be with them. The 19th, was a happy day for the faithful souls who are manning the Gospel Ship in Dayton, Ohio. We rejoice with brother Kiehl.

The Johnstown, Pa., *Morning News*, of Feb. 20th, said,

Rev. J. D. McFaden, of Philadelphia, closed a very successful series of meetings in the Brethren church on Somerset street, on Sunday evening having had over thirty accessions to the church. Mr. McFaden is a very interesting speaker and his congregation regrets very much that he was obliged to leave. He will depart for his home this evening.

Thanks to Brethren E. Mason and Hildebrand for your friendly criticism I did use rather common language, but it seems all the other readers of the EVANGELIST understood what I meant. I stand corrected.

J. B. WAMPLER.

Blanco, Pa.

Brother P. J. Brown and Wm. Kiefer, were preaching the word to saint and sinner in the Bear Creek congregation. I had the pleasure of hearing them two evenings. It does one's soul good to listen to those eternal truths as they fall from the lips of those who speak as they are moved by the Holy Spirit. Such should be esteemed very highly in love for their work's sake.

S. KIEHL.

Dayton, O., Feb. 20, 1888.

I recieved a postal card as follows:—Allen P. O., Pa., Feb. 18, 1888. Please inform who was the founder of the Brethren church, and oblige a reader of the EVANGELIST.

W. E. M.

Answer.—"Jesus Christ." She is built upon the rock (Petra) "and the gates of hell cannot prevail against her." If not satisfactory please inquire again. With best wishes, etc.

J. B. WAMPLER.

Blanco, Pa.